

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A lid apparatus for opening/closing an opening formed in a main body, the apparatus comprising:

a lid having a working face configured to open/ close the opening, and a back face reverse to the working face;

an arm attaching the lid to the main body, for the lid to be operable for opening/closing, the arm including a first axis to pivotally support the arm relative to the main body around the opening, and a second axis to swingably support the lid relative to the arm through the back face, and the second axis being disposed between a center of gravity of the lid and the first axis; and

a regulatory member configured to intervene between the arm and the back face of the lid, at a regulatory position between the first and second axes, so as to regulate a distance between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, such that the working face of the lid is set in parallel with the opening.

Claim 2 (Original): A vacuum container apparatus comprising:

an airtight container main body having an opening and a seat portion surrounding the opening;

a vacuum exhaust section configured to exhaust an interior of the main body;

a sealing member disposed on the seat portion around the opening;

a lid configured to sit on the seat portion and airtightly close the main body through the sealing member, the lid having a working face configured to open/close the opening, and a back face reverse to the working face;

an arm attaching the lid to the main body, for the lid to be operable for opening/closing, the arm including a first axis to pivotally support the arm relative to the main body around the opening, and a second axis to swingably support the lid relative to the arm through the back face, and the second axis being disposed between a center of gravity of the lid and the first axis; and

a regulatory member configured to intervene between the arm and the back face of the lid, at a regulatory position between the first and second axes, so as to regulate a distance between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, such that the working face of the lid is set in parallel with the opening.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the opening is horizontally disposed and faces upward, and the regulatory member is configured to ~~allows~~ allow a minimal distance to be set between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, so as to prevent the lid from inclining about the second axis by its own weight.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the regulatory member comprises an adjustment screw attached to the arm and configured to be adjustable in projecting length from the arm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a protection member disposed between the regulatory member and the back face of the lid, and configured to absorb ~~[[an]]~~ a contact impact.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1-~~or~~2, further comprising a bracket fixed to the back face of the lid, and a bearing plate supported by the arm pivotally about the second axis, wherein the bracket and the bearing plate are adjustable in relative positions and fixed to each other.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1-~~or~~2, further comprising a bias mechanism configured to supply the arm with a bias force in a direction to open the lid.

Claim 8 (New): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the opening is horizontally disposed and faces upward, and the regulatory member is configured to allow a minimal distance to be set between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, so as to prevent the lid from inclining about the second axis by its own weight.

Claim 9 (New): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the regulatory member comprises an adjustment screw attached to the arm and configured to be adjustable in projecting length from the arm.

Claim 10 (New): The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a protection member disposed between the regulatory member and the back face of the lid, and configured to absorb a contact impact.

Claim 11 (New): The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a bracket fixed to the back face of the lid, and a bearing plate supported by the arm pivotally about the

second axis, wherein the bracket and the bearing plate are adjustable in relative positions and fixed to each other.

Claim 12 (New): The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a bias mechanism configured to supply the arm with a bias force in a direction to open the lid.